

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**August 6, 2010**

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chief Cox at 0730. The following members were present: Charles Schneider, Russ Trimble, Jody Smith, Scott Sanders, Don Cox, Jack O'Donnell, Mike Whitsell, Jason Wittgraf, Larry Richards, Paul Barrows, Scott Wiegert, Rob Dehnert, David Edgar, James Sargent, Aaron Chittenden and Michelle McKelvogue.

## **REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

The request from the Cedar Village residents for a street name for the alley between 6<sup>th</sup> & 7th Street has not yet been resolved. The City is waiting to hear back from the residents and will take further action as necessary.

## **FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT**

Assistant Chief Dehnert reported the WestCom 911 Positron phone system is being upgraded to add two new phone positions, digital hand-off device & maintenance issues. The \$163,279 upgrade is funded from 911 Surcharge Funds.

Chief Cox reported the Public Safety CIP group will be in contact with Public Works to request a number of facility maintenance repairs be added to the CIP Budget.

## **PLANNING / OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

Assistant Chief Edgar explained the new Operational Response Guideline for EMS units. EMS units, when first notified of a trip, will begin in a non-emergent mode and upgrade to emergent if the PQA by dispatch warrants an emergent response. This is in compliance with Medical Priority Dispatch System Standards and is a safer practice for EMS units.

Deputy Chief Sargent reported a City-wide disaster drill is being planned for September 16, 2010, 7:30 PM at Edgewater Retirement Community. The drill will incorporate a fire, 14 injuries needing EMS transport, and up to 100 resident bystanders.

Chief Cox volunteered to coordinate a winter storm event drill utilizing the EOC within the next few months.

## **CODES / ORDINANCES**

Assistant City Attorney Wittgraf requested direction from the committee regarding a complaint about the Notice to Vehicle Owner –Impounding Vehicles - Code section 6-2-

3(F). After discussion by council members and staff, the council members would support a change to the ordinance by adding a written notice being placed on the vehicle at the time the vehicle is chalked or marked. Wittgraf will bring the ordinance change for approval at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

## **COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP / PROGRAMS**

Captain Barrows reported the MAC is seeking information regarding possible regionalization efforts in Polk County for animal rescue services. This effort is in the fact finding stage and Captain Barrows will bring more information to the next Public Safety Meeting.

Chief O'Donnell distributed an Animal Control Community Committee Proposal. He explained the committee will review and examine our current animal control functions and make recommendations for service level, facilities, fee structure/fine schedule and collaboration opportunities. The 12 person committee, selected from a cross-section of the community, will have an aggressive time line so we can incorporate the proposal in the budget process. Any nominees for this committee need to be received by Chief O'Donnell in August.

Assistant Chief Dehnert distributed a hand-out and reported on a 4.2 million dollar interoperable communications grant project. The Metro Interoperable Communications System (MICS) is a four site (WDM 88th Street Water Tower, Ruan Center, Alleman Tower and Vandalia Tower), tri-band (VHF, UHF & 800MHz) network of interlinked repeaters for improved public safety communications across jurisdictional and geographic boundaries in Central Iowa. A Permitted Conditional Use application for a new communication tower, antenna structure and/or transmission facilities on the 88th Street Water Tower has been made for this project. A lease with WDM Water Works for the above mentioned transmitter to be placed on the water tower will be in effect until the grant money is depleted, at that time, the existing 28E Agreement for use of the water tower at no charge will be in effect. Finance Director Smith will author a letter to the Water Works Trustees to this effect. Funds to maintain the system, after the grant runs out, may be from WestCom 911 Funds. The City of West Des Moines should have little or no costs associated with this project as our radios are compatible and programmed to operate on the system.

Assistant Chief Dehnert reported WestCom will be bringing a consent agenda item forward for Council approval requesting utility right-of-way easement at the 88<sup>th</sup> Street Water Tower property for MICS.

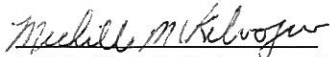
## **OPEN FORUM**

Councilman Schneider reported he has received complaints about the 35 mph speed limit on Fuller Road between South 35<sup>th</sup> and Grand Avenue. Complainants arguing the speed limit should be 25 mph as it is a 2 lane street with sidewalks in close proximity to the street and the speed limit should reflect a residential street. This issue will be referred to the Public Works Subcommittee for review.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Friday, October 1, 2010 at Station 21, at 0730.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 0840.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle McKelvogue", written in dark ink.

Michelle McKelvogue, Recording Secretary

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by committee members should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the West Des Moines City Council. Further, any recommendation the committee may make to the City Council is based on information provided to the committee at this point in time.